

PREVENTIVE WOMEN'S HEALTH
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UTERINE ENDOMETRIAL ABLATION

Uterine Endometrial Ablation (UEA) is a surgical procedure used to treat persistent abnormal uterine bleeding (menstrual periods) that has not responded to other more conservative forms of therapy such as D&C or hormone therapy.

UEA involves totally and permanently destroying (burning) the inner uterine lining (endometrium) which is the layer that grows and bleeds each month as the menstrual period.

This procedure is usually done for persistent abnormal bleeding prior to proceeding with a hysterectomy.

SURGICAL CANDIDATES

- 1) Patients with persistent heavy periods or abnormal uterine bleeding that has not responded to other forms of therapy.
- 2) Patients who are finished having children
- 3) Patients with no other pelvic pathology such as a large uterus, large uterine fibroids, endometriosis, ovarian cysts or pelvic cancer.
- 4) Patients who are considering having a hysterectomy because of their persistent bleeding problems

UEA-SURGICAL PROCEDURE

UEA is done in the outpatient Surgi-Center with the patient asleep under general anaesthesia. The procedure usually takes 20-30 minutes because first a hysteroscopy (looking inside the uterus) and a D&C must be performed before the ablation.

The hysteroscopy is done to rule out any polyps or growths in the uterus which would interfere and prevent the ablation equipment from engaging.

The D&C is done to remove most of the current lining to make the ablation a more even and effective burn.

The ablation device looks like a small steel mesh fan which is inserted into the uterus through the cervix up to the top of the inner surface of the uterus (fundus).

Only the inner uterine endometrial lining is burned as the ablation equipment automatically stops before the uterine muscle is burned because of a change in electrical impedance once the current reaches the muscle layer.